

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:PJGLASOE:DAP

9/5/73 EXT. 20352

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

EUR/SOV - MISS BRYANT

CAB - MR. BURCH (SUBS)

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R 070156Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ALASKA AIRLINES CHARTERS

REF: STATE 109202

1. IN JULY 18 LETTER TO AEROFLOT (BESEDIN), ALASKA AIRLINES (PETERSON) REFERRED TO JUNE 23 AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND USSR AND ITS INTEREST IN RESURRECTING ITS CHARTER PROGRAM TO USSR IN 1974. IT SET FORTH CERTAIN GENERAL GUIDELINES IT BELIEVED APPROPRIATE AND EXPRESSED DESIRE ENTER INTO EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH AEROFLOT IF THE SOVIET AIRLINE SAW MERIT IN THE PROPOSAL.

2. IN AUGUST 7 CABLE TO BESEDIN, PETERSON REITERATED ALASKA'S INTEREST IN RENEWED CHARTER DISCUSSIONS. ON AUGUST 10, ALASKA RECEIVED CABLE FROM ZAVORIN (IN-TOURIST) EXPRESSING INTEREST IN "CONTINUING OUR COOPERATION" AND STATING THAT ALASKA WOULD BE CONTACTED AGAIN "TO GIVE THE DATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS."

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3. AT NO TIME HAS ALASKA RECEIVED WORD FROM AEROFLOT CONCERNING ITS INTEREST (OR LACK THEREOF) IN A 1974 CHARTER PROGRAM. SINCE AUGUST 10, IT HAS, IN ADDITION, HAD NO FURTHER WORD FROM INTOURIST.

4. WHILE NOT GIVING ANY ADVANCE APPROVAL TO ANY SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF ALASKA'S PROPOSALS FOR 1974, DEPARTMENT NONE-

THELESS APPRECIATES AIRLINE'S INTEREST IN STARTING THE DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIETS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. UNLESS IT PERCEIVES OBJECTIONS, EMBASSY IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO RAISE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, NOTING ALASKA'S INTEREST IN EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH AEROFLOT, AND SUGGESTING THAT IT APPEARS WISE IDEA FROM BOTH SIDES' POINTS OF VIEW TO HOLD AT LEAST PRELIMINARY TALKS SOON. SUGGEST AEROFLOT COULD CONTACT ALASKA DIRECTLY TO ARRANGE MEETING.

5. FYI: AEROFLOT HAS JUST FILED ITS APPLICATION (PREPARED BY PANAM) FOR AMENDMENT OF ITS US PERMIT TO INCORPORATE AUTHORIZATION TO SERVE WASHINGTON AND ADD A FREQUENCY IN 1974. AS PART OF CAB PROCESSING OF THESE CHANGES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT OFF-ROUTE CHARTER AUTHORITY WILL BE GRANTED TO AEROFLOT. WHILE SUCH AUTHORITY WILL PRESUMABLY NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GIVE THE SOVIETS CARTE BLANCHE IN THE US, AT THE SAME TIME WE PRESUMABLY WILL NOT HAVE TO SEND MORE NOTES SUCH AS THAT PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO STATE 74613 - A NOTE WHICH SOVIETS USED AS EXCUSE FOR MAKING LIFE DIFFICULT FOR US CHARTERS THIS SPRING. END FYI. RUSH

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